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SOURCE Textile.

STANDARDIZE RUMANIAN HEMP PRODUCTION

The Five-Year Plan of the Rumanian People's Republic calls for an increase in the cultivation of textile plants. Hemp is to reach a production peak of 325,000 tons in 1955. Nineteen hemp-processing centers will be constructed.

Recently, 23 hemp-processing centers, equipped with retting basins and facilities for handling bast fiber, have been opened. A considerable increase in hemp raising is taking place, particularly in Moldavia, the Banat, and Transylvania.

Two types of hemp are grown in Rumania. The first, a cool-climate plant, reaches a height of 1.5 to 2 centimeters. It produces a fiber of inferior quality. The second, a tropical type known as Italian hemp, grows to a height of 3 meters and produces long fibers of fine quality. The Carmagnola and Fleischmann types are varieties of Italian hemp grown in Rumania. The Carmagnola-Cluj type, grown in Transylvania, is now under study at the plant-improvement research center in Cluj. Local varieties of early and semiearly hemp of the cool-climate type are grown in Moldavia.

A good crop yields about 4,000 kilograms of dried stems per hectare. Twenty-five percent of this is summer hemp, and 75 percent matures in autumn.

To obtain hemp textile fibers of a superior quality, State Standardization Number (STAS) 141-49, specifying grades and qualities, was established for fibrous hemp on 1 January 1950. This number applies specifically to hemp grown for fiber (Cannabis Sativa L), the stems of which are to be processed at retting centers.

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The following chart specifies minimum and maximum standards:

Characteristics	Quality I	Quality II	Quality III
Minimum length of at least 80 percent of the stems (cm)	130	101	70
Maximum thickness of at least 80 percent of the stems (mm)	6	8	10
Minimum percentage of stems having normal yellow-greenish or yellow color	90	75	60
Maximum percentage of weeds	1	5	5
Maximum percentage of stems damaged by corn worm and hail	7	15	15

According to this standard, formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and approved by the State Standardization Commission, the stems of hemp are divided into three qualities, I, II, and III.

In classifying hemp stems, minimum requirements are considered. Thus, if the hemp stems are 130 centimeters long but only 7 millimeters thick, they are classified as Quality II. For Quality I and II, 80 percent of the stems must be within the prescribed limits; the length and thickness of the remaining 20 percent must fall within the limits set for the quality immediately beneath them.

To insure adherence to these standards, hemp-retting centers have entered into agreements with state agricultural farms, agricultural collectives, and individual growers for cultivation, harvesting, and inspection, in accordance with STAS 141-49.

Inspection covers the quality of stem, length, color, percentage of weeds, insects, and disease damage. Before the establishment of the standard, little importance had been attached to quality and uniformity. Inspections made at hemp-retting centers revealed that the 1950 crop was very poor as a result of the drought which prevailed in hemp-raising areas. Most of the delivered stems did not fulfill length requirements for Quality I. To use this inferior material, the State Standardization Commission, at the request of the Ministry of Light Industry, suspended provisions of STAS 141-49 for state agricultural farms to permit utilization of shorter stalks.

One purpose of standardization is the improvement of the raw material to permit production of finer thread, thus eliminating the need to import jute thread.

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